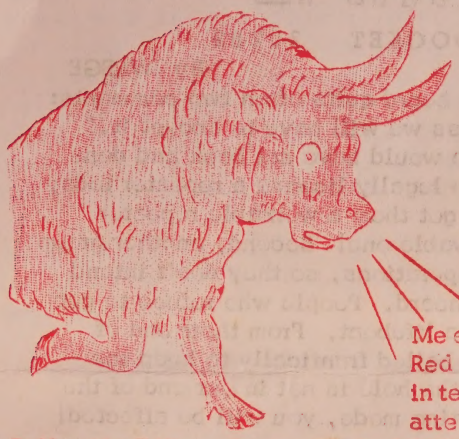
MAR. VOL. 6

San Antonio Radio Club BULL-ETIN

1975 No. 3



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Meets first and third Fridays at 7:30 P.M. at the Red Cross Building, 90 Brees St. ALL who have an interest in amateur radio are cordially invited to attend.

Bull-etin Editor, Dean Davis W5BGE Asst. Ed., Maybelle Davis
Circulation Mgr., Bob Via WB5FDT

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Letters to the editor should be addressed to 1518 Santa Anna, San Antonio, Texas 78201.

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By The WAY

By WA5QHG Bill Way

Our congratulations to Bob Baldwin WN5MCJ who brought to the club's attention the lack of information in the local libraries concerning the amateur. Bob talked the club into buying a set of ARRL books for each of the 9 libraries here. Then followed through by getting both TV and newspaper coverage for the presentation of the books. Though Bob is only a Novice, he has already shown SARC in the short time he has his license that he will be a valuable asset to the club and to the amateur ranks. Again--Thanks!

Clay W5ZPV, program chairman, has planned future programs for SARC which include: Linear Amplifiers, Construction and Use, Roy W5EYB; Amateur Slo-Scan TV, Larry WB5CNX; Decimal Counters, George W5VPQ and possibly a demonstration of new Heathkit equipment.

The Code and Theory Class for Generals and Advance is underway at the Covenant Presbyterian Church, 118 Roleto, with George James WB5LDN and Bob Wheaton W5PKK heading it up. If you haven't enrolled yet, better hurry down there on Tuesday and Thursday nights.

The Club's station equipment at Jewish Community Center was stolen recently and now has been recovered by the police. Ivan WA5RNV stated all the equipment is back in the Club's possession, except the microphone, lightning arresters and the complete set of spare tubes. In order to make a quick disconnect, the thieves cut all power cables. The same group had also ripped some police repeaters and other communication equipment. It looked like they were going into the business!

The Weather Bureau has asked the SA amateurs for help on a Weather Watch Program. Classes to train the amateurs as weather spotters were held 22 and 28 Feb. Some 40 to 50 attended these classes. Future training will be held also. For further info contact Neil Martin WA5FSR at 655 0890.

73, Bill Way WA5QHG.

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COMING EVENTS

MIDLAND SWAPFEST--Mar. 22-23, Midland, Rodeway Inn, on Interstate 20; pre-registration $2.50, write P. O. Box 4401, Midland, Texas, 79701.
7290 and TEX. TFC NET PICNIC--April 25, 26, 27, Lake Whitney State Park.
STEN CONVENTION--June 6, 7, 8, Victoria, Holiday Inn, Hwy. 59.
TEX. VHF-FM Summer Convention--Aug. 1, 2, 3, Temple, Tex., Ponderosa Motor Inn.
CHRISTMAS PARTY--Saturday, Dec. 6, Arden Grove Party House.

AN EDITORIAL

SOME VIEWPOINTS ON DOCKET 20282

By W5BGE

On listening across the bands, both HF and VHF, we heard quite often two comments: One group saying, "If that is what FCC wants, I guess we will have to accept it." That is strictly a defeatist attitude. If the VHF group would have sat back and done nothing about 18803 they would not have been able to legally license a repeater today --they furnished FCC with enough information which got them a workable repeater docket. This is what it will take to make 20282 a livable one! Second, another group was saying that the docket doesn't effect their own operations, so they don't intend to do anything. This reminds me of a story we once heard. People who refuse to get involved are like two shipwrecked men in one end of a lifeboat. From their end of the boat, the pair watched as others at the other end bailed frantically to keep the boat afloat. One said to the other, "Thank Heaven, the hole is not in our end of the boat." No matter what class of license or what operating mode, you will be affected!

We read with amusement the editorial in a Feb. magazine which presented a ONE-sided report that brought out ONLY the "possible" good points of the docket. One might think this editorial was "influenced" by a commercial interest!

It is true that the present amateurs will be "grandfathered" to both sides (HF and VHF) depending on their class of license)--BUT what about the FUTURE AMATEURS? This separation of the HF and VHF in the future would possible split the amateurs into two factions and greatly decrease their ability to furnish communications during emergencies. For instance, under current regulations, a General class amateur, in time of emergency, can operate his station on both HF and VHF, whereas, under the new proposal, the amateur in the future would have to have two classes of license. We have felt from the beginning that Techs should have been given Novice privileges. Since FCC has not wanted to bother with giving Technician class licenses, and it has been a mail type,we feel that it is wrong to make the present Techs nonrenewable unless it has been taken at a FCC examining point. ALL present Techs should be "grandfathered" to new class of Technician (NONE downgraded to Communicator!)

We cannot see how FCC can propose "all above 144" with 250 watts (250 watts,WOW!) for a Communicator class license! The present Novice has only 50 Khz on 75, 40, 15, and 10 with a limit of 75 watts. "IF" it is necessary to have a Communicator class license, why not they also be given the same sort of limitation, say 50 Khz in an area where there is no experimentation, moon bounce, satellites, repeaters, etc. We definitely are deadset against the Communicator using repeaters. Repeaters are the biggest thing in VHF and the use of the repeater could be an incentive for upgrading to Tech. It would be utterly chaos to dump a large group of CB-type people on repeaters!

What about the Techs who are model airplane enthusiastics? They will no longer be able to operate A2 or F2 in the 50 Mhz band. Also in the devaluation of Techs and Generals, due to the loss of special emission techniques (slo-scan, ritty, etc.) the interest and/or development, along these lines, will be discouraged.

FCC is supposed to be concerned about the lack of growth in the amateur ranks. We wonder if their concern is promoted only by pressure of commercial interests. Is Communicator method the only way for growth? We think not--what do you think?

The FCC "restructuring" proposal appears to be an expansion of their incentive program to work toward a higher license grade. The incentive for a Novice, which will be issued a 5-year renewable license, will disappear. The incentive for Advance to Extra is greatly reduced since there will be no exclusive Extra phone segments. Since the Communicator is prohibited from using CW, we see no incentive for him to upgrade. Most Techs, unless they upgrade to hold present privileges, will be "downgraded" to the Communicator route. The experimenter unlikely will ever go for Extra because the VHF route provides little or no CW. So we wonder how much of an incentive this new docket will really bring about!

Serious consideration by FCC should be given to continuation of commission sponsored exams at Civil Service points, instead of present method of appearing quarterly or semiannually.

SUMMARY: NOT necessary to have a series A and series B split. The present structure is split enough. Increase Novice to 100 watts input (it would be possible that he

would not have to buy a new rig when he upgraded). Communicator privileges and a 5-year nonrenewable license. Give Techs Novice privileges. (They have already earned them). No change for Extra. No change for Advance. No change for General. No need for Experimenters class. Communicator (no code, same theory as Novice) be given subbands on 144 and 220 with no repeater operation, power limited to 25 watts and a 5-year nonrenewable license. (On completion of 5 wpm CW Novice privileges.) A better program of code and theory classes by all radio clubs to help insure our growth and provide qualified and dedicated amateurs.

We think that all amateurs should carefully read the proposal; be prepared to answer the questionaire that you will receive from ARRL, and FINALLY--make known to FCC your opinions ! 73, Dean W5BGE.

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EVERYTHING YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT CHECKING INTO A CW NET.....but you were afraid to ask

Assume you would like to send birthday greetings to your Aunt Suzy in Upper Squamas, Mich. so you tune up on 3770 kHz right at 7 p.m., and listen for the net to begin. Sure enuf, right on the tick of 0000 GMT, if before October 27, or 0100 GMT, if after, you hear the net control station calling the net. He sends out some boggledygook like this. "TEX TEX TEX de W5NCS W5NCS, GE = QND QNZ = TEX de W5NCS QNA RN5 rep K" and you feel like jumping right in and letting him know you are there with a piece of important traffic. DON'T. He is asking for the net's RN5 liaison to check in. While you hesitate, sure enuf, that is what happens, and he sends like this: "W5NCS de W5RN GE OM RN5 QNI QRU" and the net control station comes back at him "W5RN de W5NCS GE OM AS" and continues sending by putting out some more gobbledygook like this: "QNA fone rep K" and another station pipes up by sending "W5NCS de W5TTN GE OM fm TTN = QTC RN5 2 AA W5NMG 1 AR" and you kind of figure out that he has some messages to send to some folks, and while you continue to listen, the NCS (Net control station) asks W5TTN, who just came from the Texas Traffic Net to callW5RN and go down 12 kHz and send those two RN5 messages. Back on Texas Traffic Net, you might have heard their net control station talking about "out-of-state" traffic and the TEX CW net liaison station that takes their out-of-state traffic, and sure enough, here he is with two messages for out-of-state, and he is getting ready to send them to the RN5 representative on TEX who will take them to the Fifth Region Net, or RN5. The way the NCS gets the two stations together may be that he sends "W5TTN de W5NCS PSE QNV W5RN DWN 12 K" and so W5TTN sends "W5RN de W5TTN D 12" and you hear the other station say "GG" and then the other one says "GG" and you sort of figure out that each one is saying that they are "going" down 12. Then you hear NCS ask for TEX SS rep, and maybe or maybe not another station checks in (QNI) from the Texas Slow Speed net. Then he calls "TEX de W5NCS QNI K" and right there is your signal to go.

O.K., now just how do you go about checking in? Well, suppose your call is WB5NOV, AND you are itching to get in this net and send your message to Aunt Suzy; well, all you need to do is to be sure you are zero beat with NCS (Not very easy to do if you are running an SSB XCVR!) and you just send a letter of your call, or maybe just a "dit dit" and if nobody else sends anything, the NCS will come back with whatever you sent him. Here you go. Your heart is beating a little more rapidly and you are breathing a little heavier than usual, but you control your emotions, and realize that after all, we are just a bunch of amateurs anyway, and you start sending, "W5NCS de WB5NOV GE OM QNI QTC RN5 1 K" and right there you have done about all you need to do to check into a CW traffic net. However, you still have that message and the net control station still has to get you with his RN5 rep. He may just tell you to AS or he may just tell you to go down 12 to W5RN after W5TTN, or if the RN5 rep is on frequency already, he would work it just like he did in the illustration above about W5RN and W5TTN getting together to handle traffic. One thing you ought to know if you are sent down frequency to handle traffic: the receiving station calls the station sending the teaffic. NCS won't tell you this, he assumes you know it. Otherwise, two stations may be calling each other at the same time on or about the same frequency, and that's not good. The receiving station selects what he feels is the best spot near the place he was sent, not exactly on 12 kHz down--there may be a QSO in progress there already, so if you think you are "D 12" and don't hear your station, tunearound a bit. If you don't hear him in a couple of minutes, go back to NCS and tell him "no W5RN dwn 12 K" and W5RN will probably do the same and you get another chance! Don't leave the net without being excused "QNX". NCS just might have a message for your town!

73, Bill Clinger WB5BFW, TEX CW TRAFFIC NET MGR.
de the FREQ SHEET, the Kilocycle Club, Ft. Worth

Technical Topics

By W5LFM CAL GRAF

Once again your reporter has hit the DX trail with this report coming to you direct from sunny Italy. Along the way there was a stop off in the London area and an overnight stay in Frankfurt, Ger. This is the rainy season in sunny southern Italy (sort of like Sunny San Antonio) and local electrical power is subject to outage for extended periods. The other day power was off for about 12 hrs. and most on-base houses had no hot water, no hot breakfast, no lights, etc. On the other hand, the power grids in the San Antonio area are so well engineered that the power outage may be only a few seconds per year.

A quartz crystal clock which I have been running for 15 years loses only a few seconds of time a year due to power failures in my neighborhood. Most of these are due to lightning strikes on the line and the quartz clock did not have no-break power. Presently, I have a Westclox quartzmatic costing under $30 which is battery operated. So it is independent of the mains. It operates off two type C cells and will last for a year. The quartz crystal operates at 4 Mhz and uses IC chips to divide down to about 400 Hz to drive a motor and gear train for the hands. This clock will keep time to within a few tenths of seconds a month. That's almost as good as the Timex quartz wristwatch Clay Laster W5ZPV has. It still ticks, however, and won't hum you to sleep the way W5BE Les Essington's Accutron tuning fork will! From the whine and arcing zap of a rotary spark gap to the humm of a tuning fork, we've come a long way, Virginia.

The last SARC Bull-etin discussed the work that Marconi had done over three quarters of a century ago. I've now found out that there has been a 100 Lira coin minted in Italy which honors Marconi on one side and shows his famous antenna on the other.

Things of old which are brought to mind by being able to see things the way they actually were, was very ably demonstrated by the recent old timers' night at the SARC meeting in January. There were a number of things shown by many of our old timers, including a keen sense of humor, which seems to grow with age. The old radio items which W5PU, H. B. Behrendt, demonstrated were especially impressive. Some of the younger fellows couldn't even spell the names, such as variometers, hot wire ammeters, etc. They could spell Mother's Oats, tho, Irving. (But DX from Seguin to San Antonio. How could you?) H.B. even had some old Edison cylindrical records in excellent condition. I'll just bet he couldn't get the player in the back of his VW.

Seeing all these fine radio artifacts of days gone by, and listening to true tall tales of the early days of radio, leads me to the proposal that the San Antonio Radio Club ought to start a radio exhibit which some day might be placed in the Witte Museum. It sounds like a big project, but it could turn into something great to be enjoyed and appreciated by all those who live or visit the San Antonio area.

It would seem that initially equipment donations or long time loans would be made to the SARC who would place the equipment on display at some school or agency which could provide the necessary display space. The equipment might be willed to SARC (or else be lost forever if not properly placed). Gradually the quantity and variety would increase as well as the antique value because it was part of a permanent collection. After it had been on display for a number of years (at San Antonio College, for example), arrangements could be made for a permanent exhibit hall to be established at the Witte Museum, for example. There, a ham shack of the various periods could be built to full scale to depict what operators did at that time. The display might end up with a modern ham station actually in operation during museum visiting hours and operated by volunteers of SARC. Think about it--it could be the thing you always wanted to do. Chow for now. Regards from Italy. 73, W5LFM, Cal Graf.

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FOR SALE - Pair 4-400-A, 20 ea. Carl Mueller K5WIB, Rt. 4, Box 316 New Braunfels, Texas 78130.

FOR SALE - Hallicrafters HT-45, 1 Kw Linear with supply, $200. Joe K5EXS, 922 8136.

WANTED - Galaxy 5 schematic, Homer K5LTE, 342 9775.

FOR SALE- Back issues of magazines, 73, CQ, QST, PE,Radio Electronics. Call Larry 341 8092.

WANTED - HRO 60 coils A and D, Dave Weaver WN5NLT, 674 5992 after 5.

Alamo DX Amigos

By W5LPO John Shean

All DXers and wud-be DXers should read the article, "DX, What Time? What Frequency?", in January 75 QST page 54 by K6SE. This is not the total answer to how to work DX, but it covers basic and important items about planning. Our last meeting was held at the home/shack of Gene W5EJT. A record meeting with 16 in attendance. Two new members were accepted, Jack W5PF and George WB5LDN. Ruth K5OPT served refreshments and we all toured Gene's station. We now know why he is numero uno on the local DX scene. Next meeting will be at the home of Frank W5EDX.

Band conditions, since the last Bull-etin, were the worst for many a month and this lends credulity to the belief among DXers that we have got to be at the livi. , bottom of th sun spots cycle. The only way we can go from here is up. West Coast DX Bulletin's "Red-eyed Louie" confirms this hopeful outlook in last issue. Such poor conditions cut into the ARRL SSB DX test and almost wiped out the local gang in the ARRL CW test. The CW test period was so bad we all felt the San Antonio area was in a propagation black-out zone. Fantastic one-way skip conditions prevailed. One club wag was said to have researched all back QSTs for articles on underground antennas. Improving propagation report predictions for the last half of the ARRL tests are forthcoming and it should be better. Many of the club members supported ARRL DX tests this time and will do so again for the second half of the tests. So far, Bill K5TSR is the high scorer and really held up the club score very well. All scores will be in next Bull-etin. As for up-coming DX contests, don't forget March 15-16, the last half of ARRL CW DX test and 29-30 March, the annual CQ magazine SSB WPX DX contest. Details in the magazines or call W5LPO at 696 1879.

HEARD IN THE PILE-UPS: Les W5BE caught cocking his 4 el Yagi beam upwards at a 17 degree angle, craftily trying to get some moon bounce windage advantage for the ARRL DX tests. He sez the wind storm bent his mast that way (hah).....Frank W5EDX using a rented roto-tiller to dig up his garden for spring, but not being checked out on this beast. He will probably be in need of a new vertical antenna now, so he can use all those "practice" ditches he buzzed for wire radials.....Jim K5UKN finally agreeing to work the ARRL SSB DX test, grumbled and groaned every step of the way, but jumped in with gusto and worked many of the elusive rarer ones. Now heard saying, "I like it, I like it!.....Gene W5EJT working for fone company most of the test weekends; going to Texas VHF meeting; doing some of Ruth's honey dew projects; sipping champagne at a party and still finding time to get on and make as many contacts as some who worked the whole time. Must be nice to be numero uno and not have to work hammer and tongs at these contests.

Jack W5PF has got to be the fastest dial twister east of the Pecos. He was heard all over the place working many stations on all bands. Flitting from one band to another with the greatest of ease.....Bruce W5OSJ seen frequently peering out of his back door looking up to see if his open-air chicken coop quad antenna was still flying. Seems the poor fella just couldn't work much on the CW test. When asked later about his poor showing, he sez, "Well my antenna rotor zonked out and I couldn't turn my chicken coop." (hah).....Bill K5TSR working so many DX stations, so fast, that his foot switch burned out and stuck open. Bill lamented that he could have worked about 60 more if the switch hadn't given out.....George WB5LDN got into the DX test and was starting to do good when neighbor Bill K5TSR came on and sprained his S-meter and wiped him out.

Jim W5JC ordering the biggest and best quad antenna now in production and getting a tower from Jack W5OR. Later seen hauling tower down street on his big boat trailer. This arrangement looking just like a big artillery caison. This may be symbolic'cause it will indeed be part of a new "big gun" on the local scene. Congrats to Jim as another old timer getting back into the DX chase.....Ed W5OSH observed studying his new color TV extension course material and easily throwing around terms like square wave generator, blue gun, etc. Best bets among the gang that Ed's gone bananas and is looking to slow scan DXCC.....Harry W5KCR spotted laying out some special angle lines for boundaries of his garden located near the base of his quad tower. When pinned down he said quad works better facing Asia when his corn rows run on a line 340-160 degrees.

73, John W5LPO.

CLAY COMMENTS

A FREQUENCY COUNTER FOR THE HAM STATION - PART 2

By
W5ZPV
CLAY LASTER

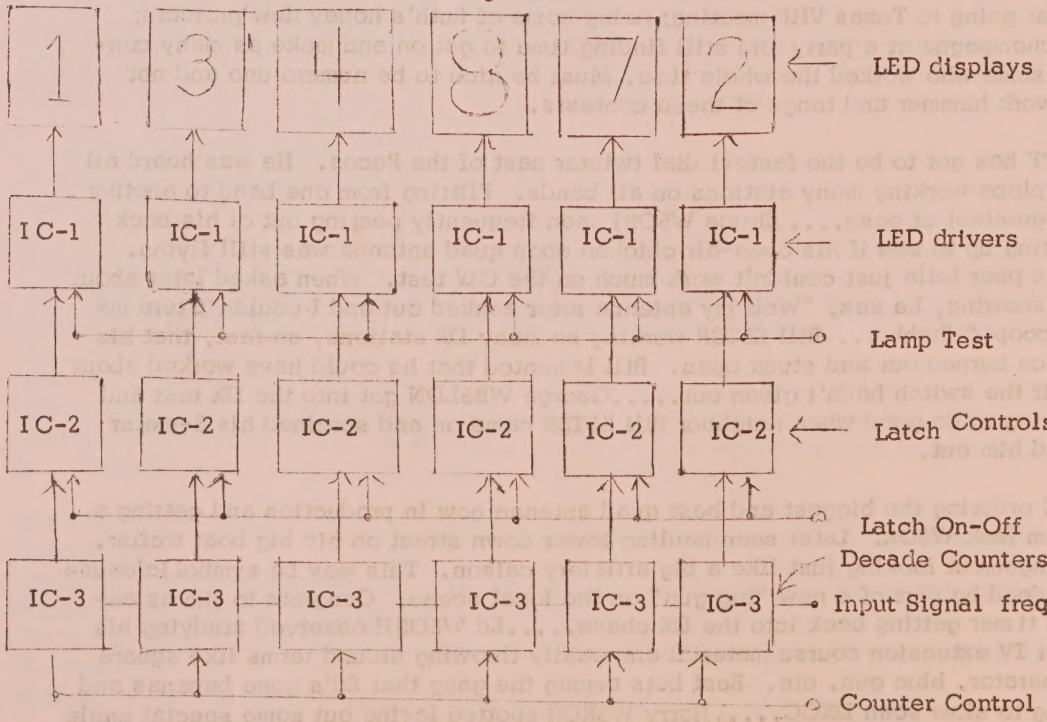
The frequency counting and digital display sections for the amateur frequency counter being fabricated by the author uses standard SN 54/74 TTL integrated circuit chips readily available from mail order houses or local electronic stores. These TTL chips are medium speed and typically count up to about 18 MHz signals. However, some hams have reported that these chips will sometimes operate up to about 30 MHz. For higher frequencies, a high speed TTL or a CMOS counter ship can be utilized to count upwards of 200 to 300 MHz. It is suggested that a decade prescaler be used when higher frequencies are required for economy reasons.

A block diagram of a six digit counter/display unit is given in Figure 1. Any of the readily available MAN series LED seven segment displays may be used. IC-1 chips consist of SN7446 (or SN7447) seven segment driver units. The SN7446 has external controls such as seven segment lamp test or blanking signals. IC-2 chips are the SN7475 four bit latch or memory units which accept the BCD pulses from the decade counter chips and holds this information in storage while the next counting period is being established. IC-3 chips consist of the decade counters, SN7490, which are used to count the incoming signal frequency. During the counting operation, say for one second, the counters are turned on and the latch chips are turned off. When the one second counting period has been completed, the counters are frozen with their respecitve data and the latch chips are then turned on for the next second. During this second, the counters are reset to zero and the counting phase is started again. Thus, six digits of frequency showing from 1 to 999,999 Hz are displayed.

For ease of construction, the Radio Shack Part Number 277-103 one digit counter printed circuit board and the Poly-Pac Part Number 92CU1602 Right Angle 14 pin IC socket is recommended for consideration. The 277-103 PC card is wired (or should we say connected) for the SN7490, SN7475, SN7446, and LED chips. By using the right angle LED sockets, the arrangement of six digits of display is comparatively easy.

To simplify this article, the actual circuit of the counter/display sections are not reproduced. The author will be glad to provide zerox copies of the circuir if desired.

Figure 1



73, Clay W5ZPV.

INTERESTED YLs ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THE ALAMO YLs' LUNCHEON, MARCH 12, 11:30 A.M. AT LUBY'S CAFETERIA AT ROMANO PLAZA. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CALL BARBARA WB5GAI 341 8092

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SPLATTER By W5BGE

As of March 1, license fees are reduced, $4 for a new amateur license or renewal, $3 for modification.....?At the present time it looks like the decision on 220 Mhz Class E CB is likely to be put off again in spite of pressure from the Office of Telecommunication Policy. The delay probably caused by the possible "restructuring" of both the CB and the Amateur.....Reminder--if you go to a swapfest this summer, be sure and get a bill of sale for any ham gear you buy--lots of "HOT GEAR" around!.....Tom WB5LOR reports that it was not a good idea to give out your fone number on 2M,he has been getting some crazy calls since.....Also read in QST about an amateur who reported he told over the air he was parking at a shopping center and would be gone for an hour or so--when he came back to his car, his equipment was stolen--so it doesn't pay to advertise.....DB W5PEK is excitedly anticipating a visit the last of March by his daughter.

Several of the SAers, who have renewed or received new licenses, have found the letter N just before the expiration date. Roy W5EYB contacted FCC at Houston and received this answer: "Letter inadvertently fed into the computer and means nary a thing." They hope in time to get it removed.....OHSA, the occupational safety people of the government, wants all towers over 20 feet to have a built-in OHSA-approved ladder (16"-18" wide with side rails mounted 6" off the tower)! Since the OHSA ladder is heavier than most light-duty amateur towers, such requirements would have a great effect on tower prices--How necessary is a ladder to a tower climbed as infrequently as the average amateur antenna tower?

Due to FCC implementation of the National Environmental Policy Act and if your antenna is not more than 300 feet in height, or your dish not more than 30 feet in diameter, it will be necessary that all new, modified or renewed station licenses tack on a statement, "This is not a major application as defined in Sec. 1.1305 of the Commission's Rules."

The Tex. VHF-FM winter meeting was attended by some 200 from all over Texas. About 75 SAers registered. Locals Roy W5EYB, Dave W5DUU and Larry W5QMU were on the program. Lew McCoy W1ICP from ARRL was featured speaker. Considerable discussion on the docket 20282 took place.....Laugh of the Month--In March QST, Correspondence From Members column: "I would like simply to propose restructuring of the FCC! 73, Dean W5BGE.

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NOTICE! NOTICE!

If you are in the SA area and not a member of SARC, this Bull-etin is being sent with our compliments. Please look it over to see what we are all about. Consider this an invitation to attend our meetings at the Red Cross Bldg., 90 Brees Dr., at 7:30 p.m on the first and third Fridays of each month. Dues are $6 per year, prorated quarterly ($4.50 at present time.) The application form below can be used if you wish to become a member.

If you are a member who has not paid his 1974-75 dues yet, use form below and mail in your $6.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL TO SARC

NAME_____CALL_____CLASS_____

ADDRESS_____PHONE_____

CITY_____STATE_____ZIP_____

MEMBER OF; ARRL_____AREC_____ MOBILE_____EMERGENCY POWER_____

ARE YOU ACTIVE ON: SSB_____CW_____VHF-FM_____VHF_____SSTV_____

(Make check payable to San Antonio Radio Club,Inc., 1431 W. Hollywood Street, San Antonio, Texas 78201.)

EDITORIAL - "ROAD MAP FOR RADIO AMATEURS, '75 EDITION"
By Roy L. Albright, W5EYB, Director, West Gulf Division, ARRL.

At this point in time, it is difficult to discuss amateur radio without reference to Docket 20282. Most certainly discussion is in order; but it should be dialogue based upon reasoned analysis, with the objective of determining the greatest good for all of amateur radio, present and future, rather than emotional campaigning for a limited objective.

Possibly our greatest problem is to attain a perspective which will permit a view of the entire picture. This is difficult. For example, the docket fails to mention the recent action by FCC to increase the number of channels allocated to CB'ers to 70, increase their power allotment and authorized antenna heights, and relax operating procedure restrictions. Also, there is no mention of the very real threat to withdraw over two megacycles of frequency from radio amateurs on 220 and give this to Class E CB'ers.

The above factors are certain to have major impact on the proposal to establish a 'communicator' class of amateur license above 144 Mhz, when the amateur fraternity becomes aware of those proposed re-allocations.

In recent months we have been informed the number of amateurs is decreasing at a rather alarming rate. FCC figures available here show that our strength increased dramatically from 212,107 in 1960, to 256,237 in '64, then climbed slowly to an all time high of 267,213 in August 1971. From that point there was a decrease to 254,891 in December, '73. Since that time we've had a small increase to 255,106 in June '74. The decrease (Aug '71 to Dec '73) amounted to 12,322; an average loss of 440 per month, if my information and arithmetic is correct. There is NO apparent reason for the decrease. Neither is there apparent reason for the upturn since December, 1973!

The important factor to consider is that we should adopt procedures which will provide growth, without sacrificing quality, to the limit our frequency allocations can accomodate. It would appear that with respect to growth, our aim should be to determine just how many new amateurs we can accomodate in each of our bands. Once this figure is established, the solutions for many factors such as privileges, term of license, power, etc., might become readily discernable.

Finally, it is obvious that docket 20282 represents many hours of detailed intelligent effort, by an unknown number of experts within FCC. In many ways it is a remarkable piece of work. It is equally apparent that when subjected to appraisal in the cold gray light of its emergence, by those of us who must live with the final product, that several changes are indicated. This was to be expected. It is believed that those knowledgeable persons who labored to prepare the document would welcome sound recommendations for change, even if that should mean major revision. Therefore, we should expect the final Report and Order to be a reflection not only of their work, but also of our ability to recommend viable solutions to our problems. This can come about only if we regard the docket as a corner stone on which to build for the future, and if we rise to the challenge.

Let us not abdicate our responsibility, nor shirk our duty, in this critical hour.

73, Roy, W5EYB.

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